App. F. IX-4

Previous References 1939. (Cens.)

File No. 24—39

Serial Nos. 1

Letter References

PRESERVED

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos.

Part B for May, '40

SUBJECT

Letter of Census Commissioner for India re: Use of Communal Agencies for Enumeration Work

WD 0295—GPB—22,500—13-8-37

9.5.40

Census 24-39-1 G.M. 4496

OFFICE OF THE CENSUS SUPERINTENDENT
IN MYSORE,
Dated Bangalore, 18th April, 194 0.

No. 907
Encl one

App. F. III-2

FROM

P. H. KRISHNA RAO, ESQ., M.A.,
CENSUS SUPERINTENDENT IN MYSORE.

GEN. & REV. SECTT
19 APR. 1940
MYS. BRANCH.
BANGALORE.

To 9531

Charles E Noronha, Esq., M.A.,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Bangalore.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of Government a copy of letter No: D.11/4-40 dated the 2nd April 1940 addressed by the Census Commissioner for India to the Superintendent of Census Operations, United Provinces, regarding the use of communal agencies for enumeration work.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Census Superintendent.

.S.

Submitted for perusal.

BRC 22/4/40
23/4/40

Dear Rey)

2nd. Mtr)

30/4

NOTE—Contn. Sheet 25

Letter No:D.11/4-40 dated 2nd April 1940 from the Census Commissioner for India, New Delhi, to the Superintendent of Census operations, United Provinces.

****

Enumeration - use of communal agencies.
Your D.O. No: 33/Census of 29th March 1940.

I had intended to deal with this point among others in the sequel to the general scheme for the census. This however is held up pending the Government of India's decision on the questions and the issue of the usual notification, and I shall deal with it now.

Every census officer can expect representations of this kind and a reference to the Madras Report of 1931 will show in what force they presented themselves then and what my attitude was.

In a recent letter to Hyderabad apropos a representation from a certain Hindu sect, I mentioned the general attitude we shall adopt in regard to all such approaches.

It is essential that all census officers during enumeration should be absolutely detached from any kind of partisan activity or assistance. It is our duty to secure as faithful a record as possible and it is the duty of the citizens of the country to give us individually the materials for that record. The matter is one between the Census Officer and the individual citizens and while we will make heavy calls on the assistance of the public we must avoid any kind of association with organised communal bodies We do not need such help, it would lead to duplication and friction rather than to efficiency, it would almost certainly cloud our records and expose the census to the charge (however unfounded) of having been mixed up with partisan activities.

There might appear to be a certain conflict between the necessity of taking advantage of all civic assistance and the attitude proposed towards assistance from organised communal bodies. The distinction however is of importance and must be kept clear In essence the position could be summed up as that our enumeration should be like Caesar's wife, above reproach. Consequently while every citizen should be our ally we must observe the greatest circumspection over any question of association with organised bodies which have a communal or other

definite partisan connotation. The true way in which such bodies can help is by impressing on their members the duty of each citizen to play his part readily when called on, either as an enumerator, supervisor etc., or as an individual answering the census questions, and the need for a high standard of accuracy and detachment in all such activity.

I would like this attitude applied throughout. In some parts of India there have actually been suggestions that two enumerators should be appointed, one Hindu one Muslim, and so on. I shall never be associated with any such position. We choose our enumerator and put on his shoulders the mantle of government for this duty of enumeration. We give him the fullest training and assistance we can, and then we send him forth as a representative citizen to act efficiently and honourably in that capacity. If the citizens of the country cannot answer such a call, it is the country's misfortune; but we shall not develop such qualities by a system of watch dogs.

I hope this has made the position clear; in our enumeration function, of asking these questions and recording them, the only agency we recognise is our enumerator and the individual citizen whom he questions.

"Copy"

S. Nagabba

for Census Superintendent.

Rmr

K.S.